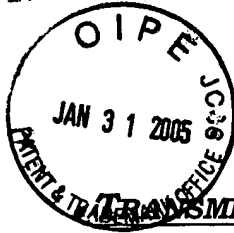


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**TRANSMITTAL LETTER**

**PATENT**


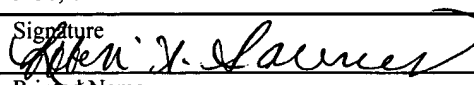
| Attorney Docket No. | Serial No. |
|---------------------|------------|
| 100P270US01         | 10/781,397 |

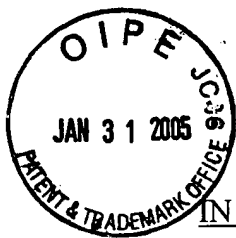
MS: Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

|  |   |           |              |
|--|---|-----------|--------------|
| In re Application of:  | Daniel L. Franklin et al                    |           |              |
| Serial No.:  | 10/781,397                                  | Examiner: | Ing-Hour Lin |
| Confirmation No.:  | 1881  | Art Unit: | 1725         |
| Filed:   | February 18, 2004                           |           |              |
| For:   | METHOD OF DRYING A SAND MOLD USING A VACUUM |           |              |
| We are transmitting the following documents:<br><br>Return Postcard<br>Transmittal Letter [1 page]<br>Amendment [11 pages]<br>Submission of Formal Drawings [1 page]<br>Formal Drawings [7 sheets] |   |           |              |

Please charge Deposit Account 50-0549 for any fees under 37 CFR §1.16 and §1.17 that may be required during the pendency of this application. This authorization includes the fee for any extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136(a) that may be necessary. To the extent any such extension should become necessary it is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

|  |                             |   |
|--|-----------------------------|---|
| Registration No.<br>45,070   | Direct Dial<br>612-331-7419 |               |
| Date: January 26, 2005   |                             | Robin A. Sannes   |
| United States Patent and Trademark Office<br>Customer No. 23322  |                             |   |
| <b>Certificate of Mailing</b>  |                             |   |
| Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.8, I certify that this correspondence is being deposited in the United States mail, addressed to: MS: Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the below indicated date. |                             |   |
|  |                             | Signature<br> |
| Date of Mailing<br>January 26, 2005  |                             | Printed Name<br>Robin A. Sannes   |



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

|             |   |                   |              |
|-------------|---|-------------------|--------------|
| Applicant:  | Daniel J. Franklin et al.                   | Examiner:         | Ing-Hour Lin |
| Serial No.: | 10/781,397                                  | Group Art Unit:   | 1725         |
| Filed:      | February 18, 2004                           | Confirmation No.: | 1881         |
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| Title:      | METHOD OF DRYING A SAND MOLD USING A VACUUM |                   |              |

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AMENDMENT

MS: Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Introductory Comments

In reply to the Office Action dated October 27, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 6.

**Remarks** begin on page 9.